

*Board Meeting
November 19, 2010*

**Board Meeting
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Montana Farm Bureau
Bozeman, Montana**

Board Members Attending: Marty Connell, Chairman – call in
Jim Davison
Major Robinson – call in
Erik Somerfeld
John Youngberg

Others Attending: Dave Desch, Executive Director
Jane Todd, Administrative Specialist

I. Call to Order and Approve Board Minutes of September 27, 2010 Meeting

Chairman Connell called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. There were no comments regarding the minutes of the September 27, 2010, meeting. Jim Davison moved to approve the minutes; Marty Connell seconded the motion. No one opposed and the minutes were approved as presented.

II. Executive Director's Report

Dave Desch explained the purpose of the meeting as an opportunity to talk about program operations, including budget matters, projects, and the upcoming legislative session. The following items were presented and discussed:

a) Budget

FY2010 year- end program budget
FY2010 SBHRS report
Department of Commerce section of Governor's FY2012-FY2013 budget
Funds available for new projects – approximately \$1 million
September 2010 program budget

b) Follow-on Funding

Follow-on Funding spreadsheet:

The definition of follow-on funding is dollars that are attracted to a project after involvement by the Board. This metric is used to demonstrate the impact the program has had on the state. Current total follow-on funding since program inception is \$242 million. This represents mostly federal dollars. Two-thirds of the projects that the Board has funded have attracted follow-on funding. NSF EPSCoR and NIH COBRE projects have brought in significant additional dollars primarily to build research infrastructure. The fact that the Board has put money into these projects has had positive impact on NIH in terms of continuation funding at UM.

Follow on Funding by project:

This spreadsheet is by project and shows the breadth of projects and the many projects that have received follow-on funding. Thirty-nine projects have generated \$1 million or more, and fifty-seven projects have generated \$500,000 or more. One-third of the projects that the Board has funded have generated at least \$500,000 in follow-on funding.

c) Project Reports

Progress Report Summaries – current status of project compliance

Final Report Summaries – summary of project including commercialization and economic impacts.

d) Additional Program Operations

Production Ag spreadsheet

The board has easily met the 20% statutory requirement.

The Board discussed the issue of statutory requirements to fund production agriculture and clean coal/renewable resource projects. Members agreed they would be interested in an effort to remove these statutory requirements, but feel this legislative session is not a good time to open up the statute. It was suggested to separately list follow-on funding for production agriculture and clean coal/renewable resource projects and see what the numbers look like. Discussion was held regarding establishing a method to place value on new seed varieties as benchmarked against their predecessors.

Action: Staff will follow up on this recommendation.

Clean Coal/Renewable Resources:

The 30% statutory requirement for clean coal/renewable resources began with #09 projects. Each year the Board has had to make some funding decision adjustments to meet this statutory requirement, and it is currently at 27% due to withdrawal of one project. The Board, however, has met the 30% requirement at the time funding decisions have been made.

Pre-Agreement Status:

Description of projects funded in June and status in terms of getting them executed.

Summary of Projects Funded:

Quick look at history of program – about one-third of the applications since inception of the program get funded each year.

Action: Staff will follow up on a suggestion to combine matching funds and follow-on funding to arrive at a more accurate representation of all the money generated from funds awarded, i.e. for every dollar the program spends, it brings in an additional \$8 in non-state funds that wouldn't be here otherwise.

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e) Governor's Boards Policy Handbook

This handbook is relevant to the MBRCT and Mr. Desch pointed out, in particular, the sections regarding taking a position on behalf of the Board. A Board member can take any position he wants as an individual. If representing the Board, the position has to be approved by the Department and, by extension, the Governor's office.

f) Commercialization Successes

The program staff pays close attention to commercialization successes. This is an important metric because commercialization is an important program goal. Commercialization successes are updated on the program website and in the brochure.

g) Upcoming Legislative Session

Legislative leadership has been elected for the upcoming legislative session. The Governor's budget does not propose changes to the MBRCT budget.

h) Upcoming Request for Proposals

The Request for Proposals will be released in early December for the March 1, 2011, deadline.

i) Poster Rotunda Session

All active projects are invited to attend a poster session in the Capitol Rotunda on February 8, 2011, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The purpose of this event is to showcase funded projects to legislators. The session is also a good networking opportunity for researchers. Board members are invited to attend.

III. Set time and date for next meeting

The next meeting will be held March 15, 2011, at 10:00am. It will be a phone meeting for the purpose of evaluating proposals and setting a schedule for making funding decisions.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Adjourn

John Youngberg moved to adjourn the meeting. Erik Somerfeld seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Connell, Chairman